

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

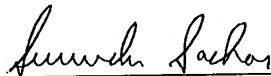
By the present Preliminary Amendment the specification is amended to correct minor informalities and to be in more proper format under United States practice. The changes to the specification are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Further, claims 1-9 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 10-24 are presented for examination. New claims 10-24 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
SNS:smi